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CREDITON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1925

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

FOR

Year ending December 31st, 1925

CREDITON :
H. M. PHILLIPS, Printer, "THE KYRTONIA PRESS."

Report for Year 1925.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1925, during which period the health of the district has been good.

In this Report I have to give a survey of the work done in this district for the past five years.

HOUSING.

The general progress in repairing cottages and making good their sanitary condition has been only moderate ; but there has been more done in each of the past three years than in the ten years before, as our inspectors have been really active and seen the work carried out after the Council has issued notice. But this rate of progress must continue before we shall be able to say all the cottages are good enough for really helping the health of the people.

NEW HOUSES.

Last year I called the notice of the Council to the need of new houses in the Morchard and Bow districts. During the last five years 23 new houses have been put up in the district through the help of the Council.

WATER SUPPLY.

Sandford.—A public supply is in progress.

Morchard Bishop.—A public supply not granted, but all the wells have been inspected and many improvements made. And now I think for a village supplied only by wells, we may say it is quite good, but should always be under constant inspection.

Cheriton Fitzpaine.—The improvement in this water supply has not been at all satisfactory ; in spite of constant attention there has been practically no progress. But at the moment a public supply is under consideration, and if not granted, the Council has decided to apply considerable pressure on the owners to get their wells in order.

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Lapford.—I regret to say it is decided against a public supply, as I think it could have been obtained at a reasonable cost; but conditions have been made very much better as regards their well supply.

Shobrooke.—A good well supply here as the wells are all kept in good condition.

SEWERAGE.

Bow.—Improvements have been made in this village.

Chawleigh.—A small part of this village has been done, but the greater part of it is still very unsatisfactory, and I am glad to say the Council are again going to consider the cost of carrying it further. I hope in my next year's Report I shall be able to note progress.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Bakehouses and Slaughterhouses are regularly inspected and we can report an improvement during the last five years.

Dairies now have to be registered and on this account a very large number of them have been found to be unsatisfactory. Many have been already put right and a steady improvement is taking place.

The Slaughterhouse Act is being carried out in this district, and the Tuberculosis Order to inspect cattle when notice has been sent has been carried out.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held at Crediton. Our Venereal cases are sent to a clinic in Exeter.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Acres, 93,508; Population in 1921, 10,060 estimated in 1925, 10,270; Number of families or separate occupiers, 1,921; I do not think in this area there are any houses which contain more than one family; Rateable Value, £123,271; Reduced Assessable Value, £67,328; Sum represented by Penny Rate, £280.

Social Conditions.—Practically all agricultural as there is no factory in the district.

		M.	F.
BIRTHS	Legitimate	91	60
	Illegitimate	3	4
Total Births		94	64

Birth Rate 15.36 per 1,000, which shows a decrease for each of the last three years—15.36, 17.9, 18.4. The rate for England and Wales is 18.3.

	M.	F.	Total.
DEATHS	60	53	113

For the three previous years :—132 in 1924 ; 120 in 1923 ; 142 in 1922 ; 113 in 1925; Death Rate 10.0 per 1,000, compared with 12.2 for England and Wales.

Deaths under one year—7.

Rate, 44.4 per 1,000, compared with England and Wales 75, and last year we had 13.

We only had one death for the whole district from an infectious disease, that being from Encephatis Lethargica and only five from Pneumonia, compared with 12 last year. Six from Tuberculosis, compared with 14 last year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Smallpox 0

We are still fortunate enough to be clear of this disease in spite of the very large number notified now each week in England.

Scarlet Fever 6

These cases are very peculiar as they crop up ; in no case can the source of infection be found, and they do not seem to lead to a further case.

Diphtheria 4
Enteric Fever 1
Puerperal Fever ... ... Nil

The amount of Poor Law Relief £1,431.

All Hospital Cases for gratuitous relief go to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

Tuberculosis :—Sanatorium under Devon County Council.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.

Maternity.—No provision except Workhouse, but practically the whole of the district is covered by Midwives run by Local Committees and under the County Council, with the exception of part of the district near Crediton which is worked by the Crediton Midwife of the Crediton Nursing Association.

Children.—Devon and Exeter Hospital.

Fever.—Whipton, Exeter, by arrangement for paying fees.

Smallpox.—None.

No other form of hospital in the district.

PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS AND HOMELESS CHILDREN.

Workhouse only, except those boarded out.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

For infectious cases, no provision, with the exception that Whipton sends its own ambulance.

For non-infectious and accident cases, the only provision is the Exeter Police Ambulance Service.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

None, except the ones previously mentioned.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer ...	...	Dr. L. Powne.
Sanitary Inspector ...	...	Mr. E. Chell.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

General Village Nursing and Maternity work under the County Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

I have previously given a description of most of the villages, but Bow and Zeal have a public water supply which is constant, and cannot be contaminated. It is mostly served by standpipes. A large number of samples of water have been tested from isolated wells and the few cases which were found to be contaminated, the condition has been remedied.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There is no pollution of rivers from factories, but some of the villages drain into them, but do not contaminate enough to injure health.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Where there is sufficient water, water closets are in use, but the vast majority are earth closets. Several of these have been found defective during the period and have been re-constructed according to a plan drawn up by the Sanitary Inspector. There were several cess pits, but I think these are practically extinct.

SCAVENGING.

None is carried out in the district, except at Morchard Bishop and Sandford, arrangements being made by Parish Council.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new Houses erected during the year—

With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—

(1) By the Local Authority	...	0
(2) By other bodies or persons	...	1

Unfit Dwelling Houses—

Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing Defects ...	...	283
Number found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...		59

Number rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their offices	35
Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Statutory Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	16
Number in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice—	
(a) By Owners	15
(b) By Local Authority ...	Nil

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Nil.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the public Elementary Schools are satisfactory and the water supply good, with a few exceptions. They are under the inspection of the School Medical Officers and if there is an outbreak of an infectious disease they are closed by the C.M.O.H., in consultation with the D.M.O.H.

HOUSING.

General Housing Conditions.—Taking the district as a whole, there is not an excessive shortage of houses, but last year I pointed out the shortage in Bow and Morchard Bishop, and steps are now likely to be taken to build houses in both places.

There have not been any important changes in population and none is anticipated.

Overcrowding.—Nil.

Fitness of Houses.—There is room for improvement in the condition of many houses as regards light and air. Any defect in houses are due to the want of supervision of owners, and in only very few cases to the lack of care from the tenant.

Unhealthy Areas, none. There are practically no houses let in lodgings, a very few vans coming and going.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Number of Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds, 91 ; Number of Inspections, 134 ; Number found defective, 27. Number of Bakehouses, 14 ; Number of Inspections, 31 ; Number found defective, 2.

Number of Private Slaughterhouses—

	1920.	Jan., 1925.	Dec., 1925.
Registered	0	10	10
Licensed	0	1	1
Total ...	0	11	11

Number of Inspections, 1925, 57. Number found defective, 3.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5—10 ...	1			1				
10—15 ...		2	1					
15—20 ...			1			1		
20—25 ...					1			
25—35 ...						1		
35—45 ...	1							
45—55 ...	1							
55—65 ...						1		
Totals ...	3	2	2	1	1	3		

Public Health. Prevention of Tuberculosis.—Action would be taken if reported to the Tuberculosis Officer.

Public Health Act., 1925, Section 62.—No case requiring action.

Tuberculosis Schemes.—Ivy Bank, Exeter, under County Council. No Officers or Institutions of our own. Work done by County Council.

Yours truly,

L. POWNE.